

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 OES-02 DOE-01 ACDA-10
INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 L-01 NSC-05
EB-04 TRSE-00 SOE-01 /061 W
-----087622 040619Z /10

R 031826Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9530
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 10996

LIMDIS

VIENNA FOR USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH FR CH US
SUBJ: PROSPECTIVE FRENCH NUCLEAR REACTOR SALE TO PRC

REF: PARIS 7282

1. IN DISCUSSION ON MARCH 31 WITH MFA NUCLEAR NON-
PROLIFERATION ADVISER JACOMET, MFA DIRECTOR OF NUCLEAR
AFFAIRS LOUET, DEPARTMENT(T) JOSEPH NYE AND EMBOFF,
SUBJECT OF POTENTIAL FRENCH SALE OF A FRAMATOME LIGHT
WATER NUCLEAR REACTOR TO THE PRC WAS REVIEWED. LOUET
NOTED THAT THE US HAD BEEN INFORMALLY ASKED IF THERE
WERE ANY PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT ARISE FROM THE US SHOULD
THE GOF PURSUE THIS MATTER WITH THE PRC -- THROUGH THE
COCOM OR THE WESTINGHOUSE LICENSE CHANNEL; AN INDICATION
WAS DESIRED BEFORE THE GOF LAUNCHED INTO DETAILED
NEGOTIATIONS.

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2. NYE NOTED THAT THE CONCERNED WASHINGTON AGENCIES
HAD ATTEMPTED TO PROVIDE AN EARLY RESPONSE AND HAD
DEVELOPED TWO ISSUES: US AGENCIES WERE NOT AGREED ON
WHETHER OR NOT SUCH A SALE WOULD QUALIFY FOR A COCOM
WAIVER BECAUSE OF MILITARY REASONS. THE SECOND ISSUE
WAS THAT THE USG WOULD PROBABLY PUSH FOR SOME SAFE-
GUARDS. NYE NOTED THAT INDIA WAS AS CONCERNED OVER

CHINAAS OVER PAKISTAN NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES.

3. LOUET SAID THAT THE PRC WOULD NOT ACCEPT IAEA SAFEGUARDS. FRANCE COULD ENVISAGE SOME FORM OF SAFE-GUARDS BUT FELT THAT THERE WAS NO GIVE ON THE PART OF THE PRC ON THE MATTER OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS. LOUET NOTED THAT IT WOULD ADD NOTHING TO NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES TO ATTACH SAFEGUARDS REQUIREMENTS TO AN LWR SALE TO A NUCLEAR POWER.

4. COMMENT: WE WILL PROBABLY HEAR MORE FROM THE GOF ON THIS MATTER. OUR REACTION TO THIS SALE, IF IT REMAINS AS STATED ABOVE, WILL BE YET ANOTHER NON-TECHNICAL REASON FOR NON-RENEWAL OF THE WESTINGHOUSE LICENSE TO FRAMATOME HELPING US LOSE ANOTHER TIE TO THE FRENCH NUCLEAR PROGRAM.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE ASK THAT THE DEPARTMENT SUPPLY US WITH A CONSIDERED USG REPLY TO THE GOF REQUEST FOR AN INFORMAL RESPONSE ON THE PROSPECTIVE FRENCH SALE OF A FRAMATOME LWR TO THE PRC. IF WE HAVE FIRM AND CLEAR REASONS WHY SUCH A SALE IS DETRIMENTAL TO WESTERN MILITARY INTERESTS, WE URGE THAT THESE BE FULLY REVIEWED WITH THE APPROPRIATE GOF OFFICIALS. IF WE WOULD PERSIST ON SOME SAFEGUARDS, THEN, SIMILARLY WE SHOULD BE SPECIFIC ON WHAT WOULD BE OUR MINIMUM NEEDS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, NUCLEAR REACTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS10996
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780144-0846
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780499/aaaadgie.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 61e480b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 78 PARIS 7282
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3092635
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROSPECTIVE FRENCH NUCLEAR REACTOR SALE TO PRC
TAGS: TECH, FR, CH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/61e480b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014